




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.19 pm): There are serious questions arising from question time this morning in terms of the police minister and the potential breaches of the separation of powers with respect to the police minister and the Queensland Police Commissioner. At the Economics and Governance Committee on 1 August, the member for Coomera raised serious issues and allegations with respect to the police minister's office involving one of his staff members. In the days following the issue being raised, the member for Coomera received confidential private phone calls and communications from the Queensland Police Service over a number of days. Then, on 9 August the Minister for Police was asked similar questions in budget estimates. He said—

The advice I have is that when a colleague of the member for Burdekin used this forum last week to make similar remarks the Queensland Police Service immediately contacted the member and asked if the member had any further evidence. The advice I have is that the member did not even come back to the Queensland Police Service ...

The question is: how did the police minister know the intricate details of private communications between the member for Coomera and the Queensland Police Service—matters that were not in the public domain, matters that were not raised in estimates. These were private telephone communications between QPS and the member for Coomera. The member for Maroochydore, Fiona Simpson, wrote to the Police Commissioner and asked. In her reply the Police Commissioner said—

With respect to Minister Ryan, I am advised that Deputy Commissioner Tracy Linford simply advised him that a complaint had been received and would be investigated. No further details or confidential information was provided to the Minister from the QPS.

I table a copy of the reply from the Police Commissioner.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 August 2023, from the member for Maroochydore, Ms Fiona Simpson MP, to the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service, Ms Katarina Carroll APM, regarding concerns raised during budget estimates hearings [1339](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 25 August 2023, from the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service, Ms Katarina Carroll APM, to the member for Maroochydore, Ms Fiona Simpson MP, regarding concerns raised during budget estimates hearings [1340](#).

The question is again: who told the police minister? Didn't the police minister throw the Premier under one of the 150 new diesel buses they are making? Didn't he throw the Premier under the proverbial bus? The Minister for Police advised this morning that it was DPC that advised his office. The question to the Police Commissioner and to the police minister then is: why was the Department of the Premier and Cabinet advised about these confidential communications between the member for Coomera and the police in this state?

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet director-general was handpicked by the Premier. The Premier's department is being privately advised of matters that should have remained confidential. We will be further writing to the Police Commissioner now to ask: if the Police Commissioner did not tell the police minister's office, why then did they tell the Department of the Premier and Cabinet? It is unacceptable, it is wrong and it is a breach of the separation of powers in this state.